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# ANGLO-SWISS SOCIETY

## *2nd Annual Luncheon*

at the DORCHESTER HOTEL, PARK LANE, W.1

on TUESDAY, MAY 9th, 1950

*In the Chair:* The Right Honourable PHILIP NOEL-BAKER, P.C., M.P.

There are few Societies, which can, after barely two years of existence, muster such a number of distinguished members and visitors at one of their functions, as the Anglo-Swiss Society contrived, at their 2nd Annual Luncheon, which took place on Tuesday, May 9th, at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1.

In 1948, the Anglo-Swiss Society was founded in London for the purpose of maintaining and developing the existing friendship between the British and Swiss peoples, to foster a closer unity to the mutual advantage of the two nations, and to promote social and cultural relations between Great Britain and Switzerland.

Whilst most of the exclusively Swiss Societies encounter considerable difficulties in maintaining, let alone increasing their membership, owing to the severe restrictions as to immigration, this Society has, within a relatively short time, been able to enrol over 700 members, of whom an appreciable number are of Swiss nationality; which surely shows that the promoters of the Anglo-Swiss Society were, in spite of some opposition at one time, right in their assumption, that a Society of this kind was fulfilling a useful purpose.—

Seated at round tables each decorated with one of the twenty-two Swiss cantonal flags, between 160 and 200 people were regaled with a most enjoyable luncheon. The majority of the participants were of British nationality, and it is to be regretted, that so few of our compatriots could make it convenient to attend this Luncheon.

Whilst on former occasions, I was, as is correct, seated at the table over which the Bernese flag was hoisted, this time, I was transferred to the "Aargauer table", — reason — there were no "Aargauer" present, with the exception of my colleague, Mr. Gottfried Keller, who sat at the top table, and so, at least for a few hours, I had the pleasure of representing this venerable canton, and I hope, that none of my friends, hailing from that part of Switzerland will raise any objection.

Towards the end of the luncheon, the President of the Society, the Right Honourable, Mr. Philip Noel-Baker, P.C., M.P., a member of H.M. Government, proposed the toast to the King and the President of the Swiss Confederation.

This toast was followed by the one to the Anglo-



**TOP TABLE** (reading from left to right).

Mrs. Stuart Townend, H. C. McCarthy, Esq. (Executive Committee), Mme. Gottfried Keller, Mons. R. Dupraz (President City Swiss Club), Lady Effie Millington-Drake, Mons. F. G. Sommer (Chairman Assembly Swiss Presidents), Mrs. E. Davies, Group Capt. Viscount Acheson, O.B.E. (Committee of Patrons), Mrs. Philip Noel-Baker, His Excellency the Swiss Minister, Rt. Hon. Philip Noel-Baker, M.P., Mr. E. Davies (Parly. Under-Sec. of State, Foreign Office), Sir Eugen Millington-Drake, K.C.M.G. (Committee of Patrons), Mons. Gottfried Keller (President Foreign Press Assocn.), Mme. R. Dupraz, Vernon Morgan, Esq. (Executive Committee), Mrs. H. C. McCarthy, Dr. A. R. Lindt (Swiss Legation), Mrs. J. L. T. Guise, Lt.-Col. Stuart Townend, O.B.E. (Executive Committee).

Swiss Society, proposed by the President, who in his short address welcomed the official guests; he informed the gathering, that the Honourable Kenneth Younger, M.P., Minister of State, was unfortunately prevented from attending the Luncheon, owing to an important engagement, his place, he said, was taken by Mr. Ernest Davies, M.P., Under-Secretary of State.

After paying a well-deserved compliment to Lt.-Colonel Stuart Townend, O.B.E., M.A., Director of the Society, for the efficient arrangements he had made for this function and his continued efforts in linking the two countries together, he expressed the hope, that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would make it easier in future to visit our country, and for us English and Swiss "to come home again."

Mr. Noel Baker stressed the importance of good relationship between the two countries, who, he said, have so much in common. (*Applause.*)

The Right Hon. Ernest Davies, in the absence of Mr. Kenneth Younger, was entrusted with the toast to "Switzerland."

The speaker very eloquently referred to the excellent relations which exist between Great Britain and Switzerland, and expressed the wish, that the day would come, when our country, in spite of being restricted by its status of neutrality, which is understood and fully appreciated, would take a share in the work of the Council of Europe, the ideals of which are to maintain and promote Freedom and Liberty (*Loud applause.*)

The response to this toast was given by the Swiss Minister, Monsieur Henry de Torrenté, who said:

"Mr. Chairman, My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have listened most attentively to the very kind words which Mr. Ernest Davies, Under-Secretary of State, has addressed to my country. I realize that Switzerland is not only well known, but also beloved by so many of you. We Swiss in England are touched by the genuine sympathy which British people show towards our country. Sometimes we are even embarrassed by the amazing knowledge of all things Swiss, which so many of you possess, be it a knowledge of some particular locality or knowledge of some part of history or knowledge of the arts, of industry, or people.

This was not always so; there was a time when Switzerland and the Swiss were regarded with horror. Your own, great Thomas More said of us: "This people is five hundred miles from Utopia eastward. They be hideous, savage and fierce, dwelling in wild woods and high mountains. They be of hardy nature, abhorring from delicate dainties, occupying no husbandry nor tillage of the ground, given unto no goodness, but only to the breed and bringing up of cattle. They go forth of their country in great companies, and whosoever lacketh soldiers, there they proffer their services for small wages. What they get by fighting, they spend it unthrifly and wretchedly in riot."

Thank goodness this view has changed and our reputation is improved. It is not for me to weigh either reality of *our* improvement nor the accuracy of *your* knowledge. It may be wisdom to be satisfied with the philosophy of the American lady, who maintained: "It is a pity that so many husbands do not know their wives, and a blessing that so many wives do not know their husbands."

The other day I saw it even stated in the press, that people go to Switzerland for food, for scenery and for

the ready smiles. But wherever the truth between Swiss improvement and British knowledge in the Anglo-Swiss relationship may lie, the fact remains that few regard us now with horror. It must be symptomatic of the English way of life that, like true lovers, you search for hidden aspects of delight and happiness and treasure them. In our contacts with you we are therefore enriched and discover, as if they were reflected in a rosy mirror, some aspects of our land which were before unknown to us.

There is another thing which strikes us in our contacts with the British. We may speak in different tongues and yet how often we speak the same language. What a delight to meet someone from a different corner of this earth, who understands instinctively of what you speak and what you mean. This instinctive understanding is a strong element in the bond between us. It certainly is one of the reasons why we feel so close and are drawn to each other's land and homes.

I must needs also mention on this occasion the great services which the Anglo-Swiss Society, its Chairman, its Committee, its members and, last but not least, its Director, have rendered and are still rendering to Anglo-Swiss relationship. Your Society, as well as its counterpart in Switzerland, does not concern itself with the affairs of State, with politics or commerce. It interests itself in the more precious side of life, in cultural pursuit and interchanges. Although the savants, the artists, the humanists, of the world have always tended towards natural confraternities, to-day, when the peoples of this earth are hedged and bound by walls and obstacles, such meeting grounds as you provide are a necessity.

The growing attendance at your functions has shown *how* welcome and *how* useful your activities have been. I do not need to stress these points, the facts speak for themselves.

I do, however, wish to express my thanks to the President and the members of the Anglo-Swiss Society for their work and the friendship shown towards my country and my fellow countrymen and women. And in particular, I want to thank the Under-Secretary of State for having expressed these feelings of friendship so charmingly and so sincerely. (*Applause.*)

This enjoyable function came to a close shortly before 3 p.m., it was indeed a striking demonstration of the close friendship which unite the two countries, a friendship which we sincerely hope, will be maintained and knitted ever closer.

ST.

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## ANGLO-SWISS SOCIETY.

**Minutes of the Second Annual General Meeting  
Held at The Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane,  
Tuesday, May 9th, 1950, at 12 noon.**

*Chairman:* The Chair was taken by Group Captain, The Viscount Acheson, O.B.E., a Patron of the Society.

1. *Notice Convening the Meeting and Auditors' Report:* The Director read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the Auditors.

2. *Minutes:* The Minutes of the First Annual General Meeting held at the Dorchester Hotel on May 11th, 1949, were approved and signed as a correct record of the proceedings thereat.

3. *Annual Report and Accounts:* The Viscount Acheson from the Chair presented the Annual Report of the Society, which had been circulated to members with the January issue of the Anglo-Swiss Leaflet. Mr. Frank Trickey, Honorary Treasurer, presented the Accounts for the year ended December 31st, 1949. Both the Report and the Accounts were unanimously adopted.

The Chairman moved a vote of thanks to the Committee and the Officials of the Society for the work which they had done.

4. *Election of Officers:* In accordance with Article 8 of the Society, the following Officers of the Society were unanimously elected:

(a) *President* — The Right Honourable Philip Noel-Baker, P.C., M.P.

(b) *Honorary Treasurer* — Mr. Frank Trickey.

(c) *Honorary Solicitor* — Mr. J. L. T. Guise.

5. *Executive Committee:* In accordance with Article 10 of the Rules of the Society the following members of the Society were unanimously elected members of the Executive Committee:

Colonel W. Sturmy Cave, Miss Elsie M. Jackson, Mr. H. C. McCarthy, Mr. E. K. Martin Mr. Vernon Morgan Mr. J. F. Pearson, Mr. Gerald Seligman, Mr. R. W. Skene, Lt.-Colonel Stuart Townend, Miss Irene Wood.

6. *Auditors:* Messrs. Barton, Mayhew & Company were unanimously elected Auditors to the Society.

7. *Amendment to Rules:* In Rule 18 of the Rules of the Society the following words were deleted "The Honorary Treasurer shall keep the Accounts of the Society and present them . . .", and the following inserted in their place "The Honorary Treasurer shall present them . . .".

8. *Future Activities:* On the invitation of the Chairman, the Director gave details of the proposed future activities of the Society and the Meeting passed a warm vote of thanks to him for the work he was doing.

*The Meeting Closed at 12.30 p.m.*

## MONTHLY MEETING OF THE SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

**10th May, 1950.**

The first glorious day of spring must have been responsible for an attendance which made up in quality what it lacked in numbers.

Mr. W. Meier, the president, opened the meeting by reporting the loss the Society had suffered through the death of two honorary members:

Mr. G. E. De Brunner, several times president in London, joined our section in 1897. At the turn of the century he was one of the key members who kept our section in being by his enthusiasm, loyalty and hard work. In the twenties he was one of the founders of the college. He also negotiated the lease of Swiss House and maintained his lively interest in the affairs of our Society right up to the end. Mr. de Brunner died in Switzerland where he had been for the benefit of his health.

The other departed was Mr. Marius Pachoud, several times president of our society, who left London in 1931. He met with an accident near Burgdorf while travelling alone in a car. Our corresponding member, Mr. J. Trachsel, now living in Lausanne, represented us at his funeral. — Those present rose from their seats as a silent tribute to the departed.

We made one new member and lost three through transfers back to Switzerland. — We have now received from Zurich sufficient copies of the questionnaire referred to last month to send one to each of our members. Mr. Meier again appealed for as full a response as possible for information on the effects of devaluation on our members so as to enable our Head Quarters to pass on the most valuable data to the Authorities in Berne.

The president then referred to the monthly bulletin of the Swiss Bank Corporation which reported that the educational grant for children studying in Switzerland was fixed at £320 p.a. plus £50 basic allowance for the school year ending 30th June, 1951.

The Federal subsidy has been received to cover the college deficit for 1949.

The Presidents' Committee has decided to hold this year's First of August Celebration indoors on a Sunday, and it was agreed to donate £55.0 towards the cost.

Education: Mr. W. Burren informed us of the scare caused by a case of suspected smallpox among the 30 students who arrived by air from Switzerland for the new term. Fortunately the lady concerned was

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